

PEKING REVIEW

22

June 1, 1973

北
京
周
報

African People's Festival Of Militant Unity

— 10th Anniversary of O.A.U.

Another Instance of Soviet Revisionists' Sham Support, Real Betrayal

A County Bank

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Greek Deputy Prime Minister Visits China

The delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Nikolaos Macarezos was the first Greek government delegation to make an official visit to China since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Greece last year. A communique was issued upon the conclusion of the visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Mme. Macarezos and their party. Following is the full text of the communique:

At the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Nikolaos Macarezos, Deputy Prime Minister of Greece, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China from May 20 to 27, 1973. Mr. Macarezos was accompanied by the Government Economic Delegation of Greece led by Mr. Constantinos Michalopoulos, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Greek Government.

Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council of the People's Republic of China met Deputy Prime Minister and Mme. Macarezos and all the members on the Government Economic Delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Michalopoulos. The two sides had a friendly conversation.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Macarezos and Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien held talks on questions of common interest. Taking part in the talks were: on the Greek side Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Michalopoulos and other high-ranking officials, and on the Chinese side Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chiao Kuan-hua, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Chou Hua-min and other high-ranking officials. In the talks, the two sides reviewed with satisfaction the development of the relations between the two countries in recent years and expressed the unanimous desire to further develop the relations between the two countries. They examined the possibility of strengthening contacts and co-operation be-

tween the two countries in other fields and agreed to further study various ways for expanding their co-operation. The talks proceeded in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Besides, the Greek Government Economic Delegation led by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Michalopoulos had an exchange of views with Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Chou Hua-min and responsible officials of other Chinese departments concerned on their bilateral economic relations.

After the talks, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Macarezos and Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, on behalf of the Greek Government and the Chinese Government respectively, signed an agreement on trade and payments, an agreement on maritime transport and an agreement on civil air transport between the two countries.

During their stay in China, Deputy Prime Minister and Mme. Macarezos and the Greek Government Economic Delegation accompanying them toured Peking, Hangchow and Shanghai and visited factories, a people's commune and scenic spots and historical monuments.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Macarezos invited Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien to visit Greece at a time convenient to him. Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien accepted the invitation with pleasure.

May 27, 1973

Minister Duval in Peking

Charles Gaetan Duval, Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration of Mauritius and Mayor of Port Louis, was visiting China on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of African Liberation Day. The minister of this island country in the western part of the Indian Ocean arrived in Peking on May 24 for a friendly visit at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei.

On the evening of May 25, Foreign Minister Chi gave a banquet in the

Great Hall of the People in honour of Minister Duval and his party.

Chi Peng-fei and Duval spoke at the banquet which was filled with friendly atmosphere.

In his speech, Chi Peng-fei praised the unremitting efforts by the Mauritian Government and people, under the leadership of Prime Minister Ramgoolam, in safeguarding national unity and independence and in building the country, as well as their contribution to promoting the unity of the African countries against imperialism.

The Chinese Foreign Minister described the present situation in Africa as encouraging. He said that the Chinese people firmly supported the African people in their just struggle against imperialism and colonialism and to win and safeguard national independence.

Although China and Mauritius are separated by a great distance, Chi Peng-fei continued, they are closely linked by a long common struggle. The people of the two countries have always sympathized with and supported each other in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and in building their respective countries. He added that Prime Minister Ramgoolam's visit to China in April last year, during which the joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Mauritius was issued, opened a new chapter in the annals of friendly relations between the two countries. He expressed the conviction that Minister Duval's friendship visit would further strengthen the relations of friendly co-operation between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples.

Minister Duval in his speech expressed satisfaction with the fine reception he had received since his arrival in China. He said: "I am convinced that the talks we have held will positively contribute to the improvement, strengthening and

consolidation of the relations that have existed between our two countries in the past decades and that were made concrete by the establishment of diplomatic relations last year." He expressed the hope that co-operation between Mauritius and China would be further developed.

On May 27, Premier Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei and Vice-Foreign Minister Ho Ying met with Minister Duval and Mauritius' first ambassador to China Ameen Kasenally. They had a cordial and friendly conversation.

Mr. Chang Shih-chao Arrives In Hongkong to Visit Relatives

Mr. Chang Shih-chao, Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Curator of the Research Institute of Culture and History, arrived in Hongkong from Peking by special plane on May 25 to visit his relatives there.

Premier Chou En-lai called on Mr. Chang Shih-chao on May 24.

Mr. Chang Shih-chao was greeted on his arrival at Kai Tak Airport by his wife Yin Teh-chen; Li Chu-sheng and Chu Yi, deputy directors of the Hongkong branch of the Hsinhua News Agency; Hsu Ying, wife of Liang Wei-lin, director of the Hongkong branch of Hsinhua; Chou Hung-ming, Tsui Yen-hsu, Chou Chih-cheng and Pan Teh-sheng, associate editors of the Hongkong branch of Hsinhua; Liao Sheng-tung, inspector-general of the Bank of China, and his wife Chiao Pin; Pun Ching-an, deputy inspector-general of the Bank of China; Li Wen-hsueh, deputy general manager of the China Resources Company; Chong Sai-ping, chairman of the board of directors of the Nanyang Commercial Bank and Ltd.; Fei Yi-ming, director of *Ta Kung Pao*, and his wife M.C. Soo; Li Hsia-wen, deputy director of *Ta Kung Pao*; Li Tzu-sung, deputy director of *Wen Wei Pao*; Wong Kwan-cheng, chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce of Hongkong; Ho Yin, chairman of the Chinese

General Chamber of Commerce of Macao; Doctor Li Sung and nurse Chen Mei-hsien.

Leading members of the China Travel Service (H.K.) Ltd. and the Asia Trading Company were also at the airport.

Timothy George, Vice-Political Adviser to the British authorities in Hongkong, was also present.

Table Tennis Players of Taiwan Province Invited To Asian-African-Latin American Tournament

Speaking at a banquet in honour of a visiting group from Hongkong sports circles given by the Kwangtung Branch of the All-China Sports Federation on the evening of May 25, Chuang Tse-tung, a leading member of the All-China Sports Federation, invited table tennis players and coaches in Taiwan Province as well as enthusiasts of this sport among the overseas Chinese from Taiwan Province to participate in the Asian-African-Latin American Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament to be held in Peking.

Chuang Tse-tung said: "As you all know, the Asian-African-Latin American Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament will be held from August 25 to September 7 this year in Peking, the capital of our great motherland. This will be an unprecedented gathering of Asian, African and Latin American sports circles from the third world. We are very happy indeed that friends of table tennis circles from the three continents will soon be in Peking. It is only natural for us to think, with deep concern, of our compatriots in Taiwan Province and of the overseas Chinese from that province, and we hope that they will have a chance to join the people and table tennis players of the whole country on this happy occasion for friendly contacts and an exchange of skills with friends from the three continents.

"Therefore, on behalf of the All-China Sports Federation and all our sportsmen, I wish to take this opportunity to invite cordially table tennis

players and coaches in Taiwan Province as well as enthusiasts of this sport among the overseas Chinese from Taiwan Province to come to Peking for this grand gathering unprecedented in the annals of world table tennis."

Chuang Tse-tung gave his cordial regards to all the members of the visiting group from Hongkong sports circles and also heartily welcomed Chinese compatriots in Hongkong and Macao to send table tennis teams to the Asian-African-Latin American Friendship Invitational Tournament.

"Learn From Tachai": Sinkiang's Achievements

Like the rest of the country in the movement to learn from Tachai, the national pace-setter in agriculture, the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region has a large number of Tachai-type units. These units have swiftly transformed their backwardness in farming.

Although the autonomous region was struck by natural disasters last year, good results were achieved in agriculture and animal husbandry. At a February conference of the whole region to exchange experience in learning from Tachai, many units were commended by the Party committee of the autonomous region. These included nine counties and more than 700 people's communes, production brigades and teams and over 100 agricultural, forestry, animal husbandry and fish farms as well as two farm divisions, 53 regiments and more than 600 companies in the Production and Construction Corps of the Sinkiang Military Command.

Each person in Usu County last year produced an average of 1,473 jin of grain, and total output of cotton and oil-bearing crops for the whole region was the highest ever. Chitai and Yumin Counties produced more than 1,000 jin of grain per person on an average. One production brigade in Huocheng County combined enlarging cultivated acreage with raising per-mu yields since it has plenty of land and is relatively

(Continued on p. 8.)

10th Anniversary of O.A.U.

African People's Festival Of Militant Unity

MAY 25 was the 10th anniversary of African Liberation Day, the African people's festival of militant unity, as well as of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.).

Chinese Greetings

Premier Chou En-lai, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, sent a message of warm greetings to the assembly convening in Addis Ababa. The Premier's message was sent on the eve of the 10th session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the O.A.U. which met as the organization was entering its second decade.

The message said:

"Motivated by the Organization of African Unity, the African countries and peoples have, in the past decade, steadily strengthened their solidarity and won continuous important victories in their just struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for national liberation. The great Africa has become an important force in the third world. Together with the revolutionary peoples in Asia, Latin America and the other parts of the world, the African people are fighting in defence of international justice and against big-power hegemonism and power politics. I believe that the current session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of O.A.U. will achieve positive results and that the O.A.U. will continue to carry forward the spirit of solidarity and militancy and make new contributions to the struggles in Africa for winning and safeguarding national independence and opposing racism and to the cause of world peace and human progress.

"The Chinese and the African peoples have formed a profound friendship in their protracted common struggles. The Chinese people will, as always, firmly support the African peoples in their struggles against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, hegemonism and Zionism; firmly support the African countries in their struggles to defend national independence and state sovereignty and develop their national economies and cultures; and firmly support the peoples of southern Africa and other regions of the continent that are not yet independent in their struggles for national independence and freedom."

Renmin Ribao carried an editorial entitled "African People's Festival of Militant Unity" extending warm

greetings to the African people on their glorious festival and heartily wishing the Addis Ababa assembly every success.

The editorial said: "The birth of the O.A.U. is an important milestone in the history of the national independence movement in Africa. It marks the victorious development of the African people's struggle in unity against imperialism. Issued ten years ago by the organization, the clarion call "to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa" has become the goal of common struggle of the millions upon millions of African people and has inspired the African peoples on their triumphant march. Since its inception, the O.A.U. has won more and more extensive support from the African countries and peoples and has grown steadily. It has made tremendous contributions to promoting and supporting the struggle of the African peoples to win and safeguard national independence, defend state sovereignty and oppose imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, hegemonism and Zionism, and to strengthening unity and co-operation among African countries.

"The face of Africa has undergone further changes over the past ten years. Ten more African countries have gained independence. The people's armed struggle and mass movement in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea (Bissau), Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania and Spanish Sahara, which are still under imperialist and colonialist domination, are developing vigorously. Many countries which have already won independence have taken positive measures to defend their political and economic independence, weaken and deal blows to colonialist and neo-colonialist forces, oppose aggression, control, subversion, interference and bullying by imperialism and social-imperialism and support their African brothers fighting for independence and liberation. As an important force of the third world, the great Africa is playing, together with the Asian and Latin American countries, an ever bigger role in international affairs. The special meetings of the U.N. Security Council, held for the first time in Africa last year, heard the views of the African people and adopted resolutions sternly condemning colonialism and imperialism. This vividly shows that the current of African national liberation is irresistible.

"However, the following facts cannot be ignored: Up to now about one-fifth of African soil has not been liberated. Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism

are not reconciled to their defeat and are trying in a thousand and one ways to sabotage and make trouble in an effort to make a come-back. Social-imperialism, too, is actively dipping its hand into Africa in a scramble for spheres of influence. The African countries and people are still faced with the task of arduous struggle. But Africa belongs to the great African people, not to imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and the super-powers. So long as the African people who have a glorious tradition of struggle strengthen their unity, heighten their vigilance and persevere in struggle, they will surely be able to take their destiny into their own hands.

"The great leader of the Chinese people Chairman Mao points out: 'The just struggles of the people of all countries support each other.' In the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, the Chinese people and the people of Africa have always sympathized with and encouraged one another and there is a profound friendship between them. The Chinese people will unswervingly support the African people in their just struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, against racism, hegemonism and Zionism. We are convinced that the African people's cause of unity against imperialism will win new and greater victories. The day will surely come when the whole of the African continent is completely liberated."

Peking Reception

The heads of the African diplomatic missions in Peking gave a reception on the afternoon of May 25.

Premier Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei and others attended.

Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and Van Piny, Second Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, were present.

Charles Gaetan Duval, Mauritian Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration and Mayor of Port Louis, and his party, who were visiting China, also attended.

Mauritanian Ambassador to China Mohamed Ould Sidi Aly, in the name of the hosts, thanked the Chinese, Cambodian and other guests for their presence at the reception. He said: The presence of Premier Chou En-lai is eloquent proof of the profound friendship and moving solidarity that bind the People's Republic of China and fighting Africa, anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist Africa. The presence of Prime Minister Penn Nouth symbolizes not only Afro-Asian solidarity but also the friendship that the anti-imperialist and non-aligned Kingdom of Cambodia never ceases to show for our continent.

Egyptian Ambassador to China Salah El-Abd then took the floor. Referring to the positive role the O.A.U. has played in the last decade, he said: The O.A.U., which is the continent's supreme instrument for common action, has won respect and recognition all over the world. The Special Meeting of the Security

Council in Addis Ababa in 1972, the first ever to be held in Africa to discuss burning African issues, was ample testimony of this trend. The O.A.U. has fostered and strengthened African co-operation. African liberation movements have been enabled to achieve greater consolidation and unity in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Ambassador Salah El-Abd condemned imperialism and Zionism for their acquisition of territories by force and denounced imperialism and colonialism for undermining Africa's right to economic development and social progress. He pointed out that the major developed countries still resorted to economic pressure and blackmail, with the assistance of the racist minority regimes, to undermine Africa's political liberation, but Africa is ever more resolved to fight against all these acts of neo-colonialism in order to achieve economic independence on her own terms.

The Egyptian Ambassador pledged the African people's support for the courageous peoples of Indochina who have been fighting for national salvation and the heroic people of Palestine who are fighting for their legitimate rights.

Irresistible Historical Trend

In his speech, Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei said: In the past decade, the O.A.U. has performed its noble duties by propelling and supporting the just struggles of African countries against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, hegemonism and Zionism and steadily promoting the African countries' unity against imperialism. It has won ever more extensive support from the African countries and peoples.

Speaking of the profound changes the daily awakening Africa is undergoing, Chi Peng-fei said: The African states are unfolding a just struggle to defend their economic independence against imperialist plunder and imperialist attempts at shifting economic crises on to others and to develop mutual economic co-operation. In international affairs, they are uniting more closely with the other countries of the third world in upholding justice and opposing power politics and hegemonism. Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution — this has become a great and irresistible historical trend across the whole African continent, from east to west and from north to south.

Chi Peng-fei added: The enemies do not take their defeats lying down. They are resorting to all kinds of sabotage and trouble-making. But no reactionary forces can stop the triumphant march of the heroic African people, though the latter will still encounter difficulties and setbacks on their road of advance.

The Chinese Foreign Minister said that China and the African countries were all developing countries and belonged to the third world. The Chinese Government and people will for ever unite together, fight together and win victory together with the African countries and peoples.

Organization of African Unity — O.A.U.

HELD from May 22 to 26, 1963 and attended by heads of state, government leaders or representatives of 31 independent African countries, the Conference of Addis Ababa adopted the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the organization was thus established. According to the Charter, the aims and purposes of the organization are: to promote unity and solidarity among African states; to intensify co-operation among African states in the following fields: political and foreign affairs, economic and cultural and defence; to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; to promote international co-operation. It was decided at the conference that the day of the signing of the Charter, May 25, was to be designated as African Liberation Day.

In the ten years following the establishment of the organization, membership has grown continuously and now includes all 41 African countries which have won independence. Solidarity and co-operation among them are being steadily strengthened and enhanced in the course of their common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and big-power hegemonism and to preserve national independence and strive for national liberation.

Since its founding, the organization has been engaged in a series of activities and work based on the aims and purposes of the Charter. Its highest organ is the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which meets at least once a year. The assembly has met altogether nine times between May 1964 and June 1972 and successively adopted a number of resolutions on opposing imperialism and colonialism and striving for and preserving national independence. The resolutions include the call to all African

countries to boycott South Africa, refusing a "dialogue" with the South African racist regime, condemning the Rhodesian Smith regime for its unilateral declaration of "independence," support for the struggle of the peoples in the Portuguese colonies, support for the struggles of the peoples of Azania and Namibia, opposing apartheid and racial discrimination, calling for decolonization, and demanding Israel's immediate withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. These resolutions have demonstrated the African people's determination to sweep clean colonial rule from the whole of the African continent and have contributed to the Afro-Asian people's cause of unity against imperialism.

The common fighting tasks of opposing imperialism and colonialism, opposing racism and big-power hegemonism have brought the African people together in close unity. For instance, when the Portuguese colonialists engaged in military provocations against countries like Guinea, Tanzania, the Congo, and Senegal, many other African countries and people rebuked these provocations and firmly supported the just anti-aggression struggles on the part of the countries concerned. The 9th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the O.A.U. warned that "any aggression against any member state is considered as aggression against all O.A.U. mem-

bers." President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon said at the conference that in the face of contention between the two superpowers for world domination, African countries should unite to defend their sovereignty and interests.

The independent African countries are also waging unremitting struggles to safeguard state sovereignty and develop their national economies. The expansion of territorial sea limits or fishing zone limits has been announced by Nigeria, the People's Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana. Adopted at the 9th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the O.A.U., the resolution on the law of the sea pointed out that "the law of the sea at present in force does not take into account the interests of the African countries" and that it was necessary for O.A.U. member states to form a common front on the law of the sea. At the 1971 annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mali expressed on behalf of the African countries objection to the big powers making decisions behind their backs, which impair the economic interests of the small and medium-sized countries. President Boumedienne of the Algerian Revolutionary Council has pointed out time and again that the Mediterranean is the sea of the Mediterranean countries, that foreign warships and bases must be cleared out and that the Mediterranean must be a sea of peace.

Fighting in unity, the African people have also smashed colonialist conspiracies aimed at dividing the African countries and undermining their solidarity.

Africa Awakened

THE founding of the O.A.U. marked the awakening of the African people. Africa has undergone great changes.

One of the places where mankind originated is in Africa. Human fossils about 2 million years old, the

earliest of their kind thus far, have been discovered on that continent. Industrious and intelligent, the African people have a long history of civilization and the Nile valley in northern Africa is one of the cradles of world civilization. After the 15th century, however, the colonialists

from the West who swarmed into this civilized and ancient continent made it their colony, its wealth taken off and its people the object of slave trade. This barbarous traffic lasted as long as four centuries and shipped away or killed more than 100 million Africans. It is these colonialists who imposed dark rule on that continent, but they have the audacity to call Africa the "dark continent" which is a distortion of history.

Since World War II, the national-liberation movement in Africa has been advancing daily. The thrones of imperialist rule have been toppled one by one. Many countries have freed themselves from colonial shackles and won national independence. Whereas there were only three independent countries on the prewar continent (Ethiopia, Liberia and Egypt), the number has in-

creased to 41, covering 84 per cent of Africa's total area of 30,290,000 square kilometres and constituting 88 per cent of a total population of 350 million.

But imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are not reconciled to their defeat and are putting up a last-ditch struggle. They still have 22 African countries and regions under their rule which are mainly in the western and southern parts of the continent and cover an area of 4,800,000 square kilometres with a population of around 40 million. The countries and regions which have not yet achieved independence include Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau) and the Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and the Principe Islands, the Madeira Islands and the Azores Islands (all under Portuguese colonial rule); the Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla, Alhucemas Islands, Chafari-

nas Islands, Gomera and Spanish Sahara (all under Spanish colonial rule); French Somaliland, the Comoro Islands, Reunion (all under French colonial rule); Seychelles, St. Helena (under British colonial rule); as well as South Africa, Namibia (South West Africa) and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) ruled by white racist regimes with the backing of U.S., British and other imperialists. At present, national-liberation movements in these countries and regions are developing vigorously. The African people are determined to liberate the entire continent.

The African people are a great people. With their further awakening and unity, the struggles in the African countries to preserve national independence, safeguard state sovereignty and develop the national economy will certainly win fresh victories.

(Continued from p. 4.)

sparsely populated. In learning from Tachai over the past eight years it expanded its cultivated area 2.2 times and raised total grain output 3 times. Last year the average grain output per capita was 3,258 jin;

the figure for every able-bodied person was 7,820 jin of grain.

The cadres and commune members of the Seven Star Commune began learning from Tachai in 1964 and battled the elements to carry out capital construction on the farms.

After nine years of arduous struggle they dug irrigation channels in the desert, turned uncultivated land into paddyfields, and put up forest belts and new buildings. Last year's total grain output was 2.5 times that of 1963, the year before they started learning from Tachai.

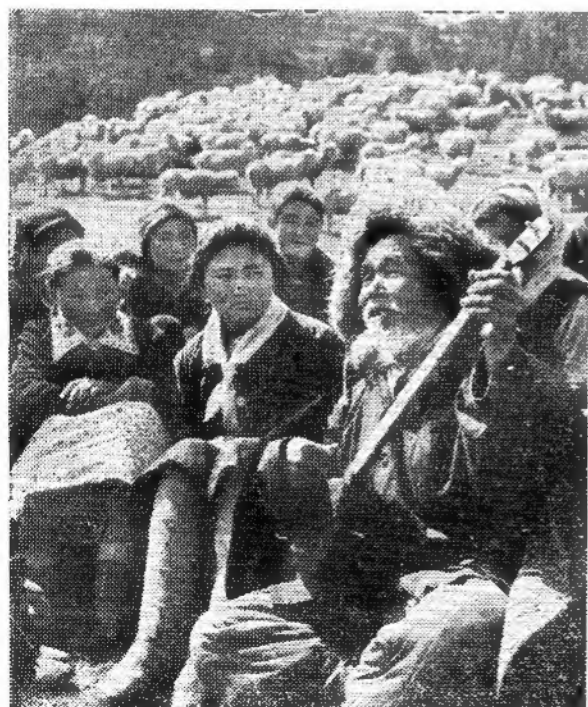
Members of a production team in an area where the desert topsoil was thin and pebbly and grain output was very low turned more than 4,000 mu into high-output fields and last year brought in six times as much grain as in 1968.

Successive bumper harvests and excellent results in livestock raising by the Liaoyuan Commune on alkaline land inhabited by eight nationalities have promoted the

development of agricultural mechanization. The commune today has 35 tractors, eight combine harvesters and 42 threshers of various types as well as different kinds of mechanized and semi-mechanized farm implements and machinery to grind flour and press oil. This has removed much of the backwardness of this area.

Good results were obtained by the Production and Construction Corps of the Sinkiang Military Command. For example, weather conditions in 1972 were not favourable, but the Ninth Farming Division produced 2,056 jin of grain per person. One regiment farming alkaline sandy soil achieved a per-mu rice yield of over 800 jin on a 10,000-mu stretch.

Sinkiang is one of China's major livestock regions. Many advanced units have sprung up on the vast grasslands in recent years. The cadres and members of various nationalities of the Red Star Commune which includes nine nationalities worked together closely and built 232 pens, insemination stations and lambing sheds, thereby greatly improving their ability to shelter livestock. They set their highest production records in crops and animals last year.



Old Kazakh shepherd with his dombra in a livestock farm on the Tianshan Mountains in Sinkiang.

Albania Launches Struggle Against Alien Bourgeois and Revisionist Influences

A mass struggle against alien bourgeois and revisionist influences is gaining momentum in Albania. It is directly led by the Albanian Party of Labour.

COMRADE Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour, has made several important speeches on this question since the beginning of the year. Following the principles outlined by Comrade Enver Hoxha, *Zeri i Popullit*, organ, and *Rruga e Partise*, theoretical and political journal, of the Party Central Committee, ran editorials and articles elucidating the political significance of the struggle. They also have called on all Party members, cadres and other people to mobilize, get a correct understanding of this struggle and take an active part in it.

Importance of the Struggle

In an editorial entitled "All of Us Are Duty Bound to Combat Alien Influences," *Zeri i Popullit* states: "We are carrying out socialist construction in circumstances where we are encircled ring after ring by imperialism and revisionism and are under ideological pressure from within and without by the still existing overthrown classes and the remnants and 'dross' of the old society which still linger in our thinking. Therefore, in such circumstances, class struggle is being waged everywhere in the various activities of our life, in all fields, among working people in both urban and rural areas, within the Party and outside it, and at home and abroad."

In an editorial entitled "Mobilize Public Opinion to Struggle Against the Alien Bourgeois and Revisionist Influences and Manifestations," *Rruga e Partise* declares that the struggle "is an acute ideological struggle, an inevitable objective process. It is incorrect to separate this struggle from our whole environment—not only the external environment but also the internal environment in which we all live, and the social and ideological environment. In short, it is a class struggle, a complicated and undulating struggle." The editorial says that no matter how the alien influences appear in their various manifestations and forms, it is first of all necessary to perceive the essence of the harm these influences may bring to training people in the ideological and political fields and to the cause of revolution and socialism.

Zeri i Popullit and *Rruga e Partise* both point out that since intimidation, threats and economic and political blockade against Albania have gone bankrupt, the

bourgeois and revisionist elements have used and continue to use another dangerous weapon, namely ideological corrosion. In order to successfully cope with this enemy corrosion, it is necessary to raise revolutionary vigilance, strengthen ideological tempering and weed out the evil phenomenon and put an end to it in time before it can begin to spread and become very dangerous.

The Party journals call on Party committees and organizations at the grass-roots level to concretely analyse the situation in their districts and units, handle actual conditions correctly, understand and expose the root cause of these alien influences and take appropriate steps to check them.

Political and Ideological Education Stressed

In this struggle, the Albanian Party of Labour stresses the importance of the question of moral and political education among the people and criticizes the phenomenon of only being concerned with economic questions at the expense of ideological work. It advocates the arrangement of one's life in accordance with socialist standards and opposes praising the capitalist society's decadent ways of life. It calls for persistent efforts to produce literary and art works of deep ideological and educational significance, repudiate the decadent bourgeois and revisionist literary and art influences, encourage the conscientious observance of the discipline of the proletariat, combat the evil phenomena of self-indulgence and breaches of discipline. It also sets great store by criticism and self-criticism, the carrying out of an active ideological struggle, and opposition to the passive attitude of liberalism, apathy and indifference and so on.

The Albanian Party of Labour has simultaneously stressed on a number of occasions the instruction given by Comrade Hoxha at the Party's Sixth Congress, namely, the need to carry out a struggle in two fields against both "modernization" and conservatism so that the struggle in one field is not forgotten and disregarded while paying attention to the struggle in the other.

From the latter half of March to early April, leading bodies of national mass organization like the Al-

bania Trade Unions, the Union of Albanian Working Youth and the Albanian Women's Union, and the Ministry of Education and Culture have held meetings to discuss Comrade Hoxha's speeches and work out some major tasks for the days to come. Forums and other meetings have been held in Tirana, Berat, Mirdita, Fieri and other districts for similar purposes.

Masses Join Struggle

Under the leadership of Party organizations, the people in different parts of the country have recently studied and discussed Comrade Hoxha's speeches conscientiously. Many people have sent letters to Comrade Hoxha, telling him about their decisions and their plans to implement them. Four hundred young workers from the Shkodra District, who are going to work on the construction site of the Fierz Hydro-Power Station, said in their letter that as workers of socialist Albania, it is necessary for them to always defend the socialist motherland and the fruits of victory, and combat alien bourgeois and revisionist ideologies, liberalism and self-indulgence. Recalling the care and education given them by the Party, they expressed their determination to give fuller play to their revolutionary spirit, and carry out the slogan, "We should go to work wherever

the lofty interests of the motherland and socialist construction call us." They pledged to exert themselves to the utmost to build the hydro-power station still better and quicker.

Albanian writers and artists have criticized various bourgeois and revisionist trends in literary and art creations and have pledged further efforts to integrate their literary and art creations with the life of the people. Since April 16, 48 writers and painters from Tirana have been staying in the Elbasan Metallurgical Combine, the Ballsh Oil Refinery, the Fierz Hydro-Power Station, the Memallia Coal Mine and the Myzeqe agricultural area, acquainting themselves with the life of the people in order to do a better job in their literary and art creations.

While studying and discussing Comrade Hoxha's speeches, 76 young people from Stalin City examined their own ideology of loving to stay in the cities and fearing hardship. They pledged to engage wholeheartedly in farm work in the countryside for a long time. Teachers from the Tropoje District are determined to be propagandists for spreading the Party's ideas and to make assiduous efforts to turn their schools into an important place for the dissemination and understanding of Marxism-Leninism.

National Rights of Cambodian People Must Be Respected

by "Renmin Ribao" Commentator

THE Royal Government of National Union and the mass organizations of Cambodia issued an open letter on May 16, calling on the governments and mass organizations of various countries to denounce and stop the acts of aggression against Cambodia by U.S. imperialism and its lackeys so as to let the Cambodian people settle their own affairs themselves. The Chinese Government and people express firm support for the just stand of the Cambodian people.

Since the signing of the Paris agreement on Viet Nam, the United States has never stopped its aggression and intervention against Cambodia and has continued to support the traitorous Lon Nol clique and give it military aid. Particularly serious is the unceasing U.S. dispatch of large numbers of aircraft, including B-52s, to carry out indiscriminate bombing attacks on Cambodia and the intensification of all kinds of military action. This is the basic reason why the Cambodian issue has remained unsettled up to now. The

United States must immediately stop its bombing raids on Cambodia, cease giving the Lon Nol clique all kinds of aid, withdraw U.S. military personnel and all non-Cambodian military personnel who are in the service of the United States from Cambodia, scrupulously respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia and let the Cambodian people solve their own problems themselves without outside interference.

Right now, the People's Armed Forces of National Liberation of Cambodia are continuing their advance on all fronts and are winning fresh victories. Under the powerful blows and tight encirclement by the patriotic Cambodian people and armed forces, the traitorous Lon Nol clique is cornered in isolated Phnom Penh and is panic-stricken. The corruption, degeneration and perverseness of this bunch of traitors are not only rejected by the people but have also aroused strong opposition from patriotic officers and men in the puppet forces. The traitors have become more and

more isolated. Internal strife within the Phnom Penh ruling clique has grown more and more bitter and, despite recently rigging up a new cabinet, it still cannot ease its internal contradictions or get the puppet regime out of its grave crisis. No matter how the United States may prop it up, the traitorous Lon Nol clique cannot escape its fate which is total collapse.

The Cambodian people's resolve to safeguard independence, sovereignty, peace, unity, neutrality and territorial integrity is unshakable. No force can check their victorious advance. Their struggle for fundamental national rights will certainly be crowned with final victory.

(May 24)

Another Instance of Soviet Revisionists' Sham Support, Real Betrayal

Hsinhua Correspondent Commentary

IN a recent article, the Soviet paper *Pravda* said: "Following the signing of the agreements on Viet Nam and Laos, the turn of developments in Indochina to the restoration of peace and political settlement now brings up particularly sharply the question of Cambodia. The fire of the fratricidal war continues to blaze in that country." "Today," it bewailed, "the pernicious consequences of the war have become more obvious than ever," bringing about "political and economic chaos in the country," and so on.

As is known to all, the war between the patriotic Cambodian troops and people and the Lon Nol clique is a life-and-death battle between the forces of national salvation and those of national betrayal, between the forces of upholding sovereignty and those of selling out sovereignty. The Lon Nol clique is no "brother" of the Cambodian people; it is a bunch of traitors who have sold themselves to imperialism. The Cambodian people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation is a just war, and their struggle against the traitorous Lon Nol clique is a just struggle to defend the independence and sovereignty of their motherland. It has nothing to do with "fratricide."

At present, an excellent situation prevails in the struggle in Cambodia. After waging a valiant struggle in the last three years and more, the patriotic Cambodian troops and people effectively control 90 per cent of Cambodian territory and 85 per cent of the population whereas the Lon Nol clique, holed up in isolated Phnom Penh, is panic-stricken and at the end of its tether. The people of the world rejoice over the Cambodian people's victory. However, the Soviet revisionist leading clique which has all along teamed up with the Lon Nol clique is as frantic as ants on a hot pan. By raising a hue and cry about the "pernicious consequences" of the war and "political and economic chaos in the country," it is shouting itself hoarse in support of the dying Lon Nol clique.

In a recent speech at a mass rally in Conakry, capital of Guinea, Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk solemnly pointed out that the Cambodian people would never "accept a deceptive peace" and that "they will fight to the end, that is to say, until the enemy besieged in Phnom Penh surrenders unconditionally and the system U.S. neo-colonialism established in Phnom Penh in 1970 was swept away for ever." But the Soviet revisionist clique utterly disregards the Cambodian people's interests, clamouring loudly for the need to bring about the turn of developments in Cambodia "to the restoration of peace and political settlement."

One cannot but ask why at a time when complete victory is in sight in the Cambodian people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the Soviet revisionists should have gone so far as to turn facts upside down and confuse right and wrong? What are their motives? To put it bluntly, the Soviet revisionists' deliberate distortion of the nature of the Cambodian war and their slanders against the Cambodian people's struggle as a "fratricidal war" are obviously aimed at sabotaging the Cambodian people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. This is a vain attempt to make the Cambodian people lay down their weapons so as to prop up the Lon Nol clique's tottering rule. The "political settlement" of the Cambodian issue peddled by the Soviet revisionists is an effort of co-ordination with the peace talk fraud hatched by U.S. imperialism and the Lon Nol clique, an effort to split the patriotic Cambodian forces.

The hostility of the Soviet revisionist clique towards the Cambodian people and its support for the Lon Nol clique did not begin today. It has up to now refused to recognize the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which is leading the Cambodian people in their struggle and which has been recognized by nearly 40 countries and organizations in the world. On the

contrary, it has for a long time been maintaining diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol clique and continues to provide the latter with economic aid. Last year it even voted for the participation of the Lon Nol clique in a conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. What is more, it had the audacity to undertake recently to insure ships transporting weapons to the Lon Nol clique. *Vanguard*, a man of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist), said in a recent report: "The Russians have been shown to have a direct stake in the success of the Mekong River convoys bringing petroleum, imported foodstuffs and military supplies upstream three times a month from south Viet Nam to the beleaguered Cam-

bodian capital. Phnom Penh." These ships and cargoes were insured by an insurance company of the Lon Nol clique, which in turn was insured by "seven foreign firms, including the state-owned Soviet insurance organization." The report pointed out that this Soviet assistance in maintaining the Lon Nol clique, which is beset with difficulties, is "one of the most bizarre ironies of the Indochina war."

The above-mentioned acts of the Soviet revisionists cannot save the tottering traitorous Lon Nol clique. On the contrary, they are an excellent self-exposure of the hypocrisy of the Soviet revisionists who claim to be a "faithful friend" of the Cambodian people.

Tremendous Changes in a Poor Village

by Our Correspondent

How did the Hohengcheng Brigade make progress in the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment — and become an advanced unit?

OUR bus was running on the seemingly endless north China plain. Men and women commune members were working in the fields. Though there was a serious drought in this area last year, there wasn't a sign of the damage it had caused.

A local man on the bus told me that there had been a big drought in 1920. The county records at that time stated: "Big drought, the land is barren as far as the eye can see, absolutely no harvest, people are without food and the number of the hungry fighting to get aboard the trains to find food elsewhere amounts to ten thousand every day."

The bus stopped in front of a row of new buildings. We were in Hohengcheng, one of the brigades in the Shangcheng Commune in Chengan County, Hopei Province, 450 kilometres south of Peking. Men and women commune members were chatting and laughing as they went to the fields in groups. Trucks, horse carts and tractor-drawn trailers with fertilizer were heading in the same direction. A tall water tower stood between rows of brick houses. On the wall opposite was the slogan "In agriculture, learn from Tachai" written in big characters.

China's rural areas conquered the effects of last year's serious natural calamities and had a good harvest. Hohengcheng did even better and, like many other advanced units, had a very rich harvest. In the five years from 1968 to 1972, the grain yield here averaged more

than 1,000 *jin* per *mu* annually. The average per-*mu* yield of ginned cotton exceeded 100 *jin* in every one of the eight years since 1965. Such yields were even higher than the targets set by the state for the high-yielding areas south of the Yangtze River (an average of 800 *jin* for grain and 100 *jin* for ginned cotton per *mu*.)

Before liberation 90 per cent of the village land were in the hands of two big landlord households. Many of today's commune members were poverty-stricken peasants, either hired by the year by landlords as farm hands or as their tenants. Only the homes of landlords and rich peasants were of brick and tile. The peasants lived in thatched cottages, small and dark. The soil was poor and yields were very low. In a good year the per-*mu* yield of grain was 100 *jin* or so and a *mu* of cotton gave something like 20 *jin*.

Sharp Struggle

Decisive victory in class struggle paved the way for Hohengcheng to transform its poor and backward state. The Eighth Route Army (forerunner of the Chinese People's Liberation Army) under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party liberated Hohengcheng in the autumn of 1945. Land reform was carried out in 1948. Holding red-tassel spears, the dirt-poor peasants struggled against the landlords at mass meetings, burnt the title-deeds and divided up the land. The feudal shackles of thousands of years were shattered in the fiery revolutionary movement.

After the land was divided among the peasants, the individual economy gradually gave rise to bipolar differentiation in the countryside. The question at that time was: To take the capitalist road which would make a small number of people rich and let them become exploiters while the vast majority would end up in poverty and be exploited again, or to take the socialist road which ensured common prosperity through mutual aid and co-operation? Guided by Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, Hohengcheng's peasants went through the stages of mutual-aid teams, co-operatives and then the

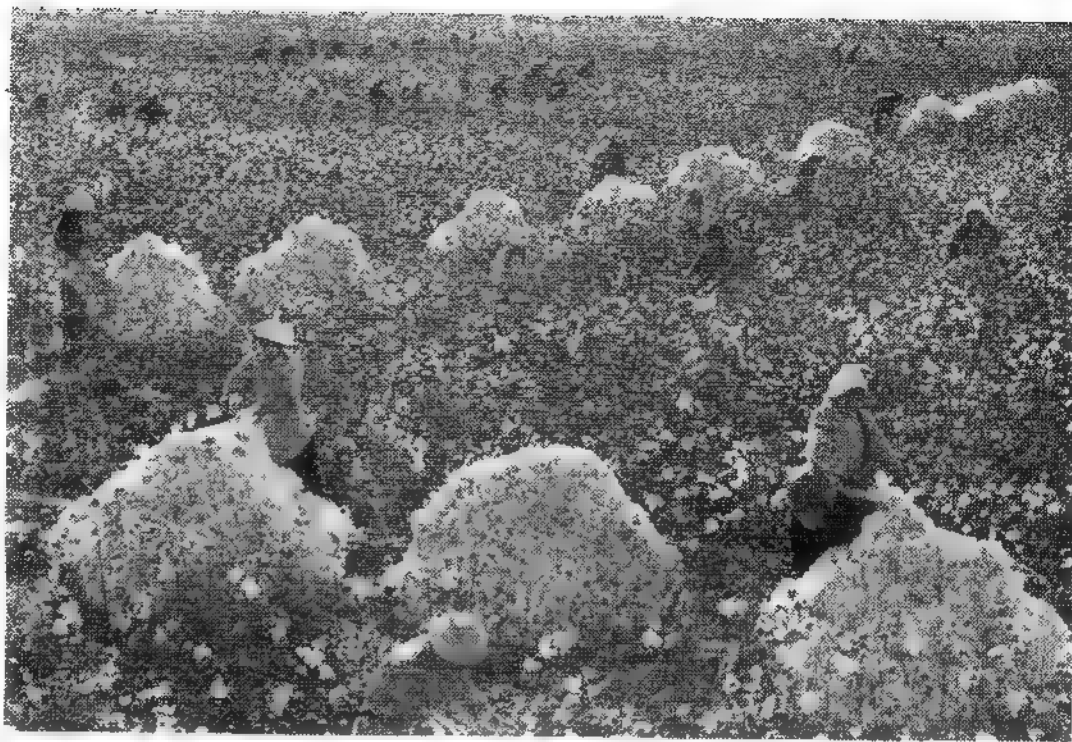
people's commune in the 1950s and took the broad road of socialism. At every step forward they found themselves in struggle against a handful of landlords, rich peasants and other class enemies and in the struggle between bourgeois ideas and socialist ideas.

The socialist system promoted the growth of farm production. In 1958 Hohengcheng got 400 jin of grain and 58 jin of cotton per mu, more than trebling and doubling the pre-liberation figure of each. The peasants began living much better.

However, as Chairman Mao has pointed out: "Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. In the historical period of socialism, there are still classes, class contradictions and class struggle, there is the struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road, and there is the danger of capitalist restoration." Along the road of advance, Hohengcheng met with interference by the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and other political swindlers and class enemy sabotage.

At one point a brigade leader who had been bribed by a landlord degenerated and left the revolutionary path, and a handful of class enemies openly engaged in speculation and other sabotage activities. This resulted in serious damage to the socialist collective economy. Thus in 1959 the brigade's situation was such that it had piled up loans from the state amounting to 116,000 yuan and its collective property consisted of only one donkey, five skinny oxen, a small cart and a power-operated well.

Sabotage activities by the class enemies set off opposition from the poor and lower-middle peasants and drew the attention of the Party organization at a higher level. Thus a new struggle started.



High cotton yields.

The poor and lower-middle peasants who had suffered so much in the old society would never allow the bitter past to reappear. Led by the Party organization, they waged a tit-for-tat struggle against class enemies bent on restoring capitalism. They struck back at the landlord who had bought over and corrupted cadres and they removed from office the degenerate who had usurped a leading brigade post.

The brigade's Party branch committee was reorganized and a new leading group was elected with Comrade Li Ho-kuei as Party branch secretary. Li is from an impoverished peasant family and the old society left him with unforgettable wounds. His grandfather and grandmother died on the road fleeing from famine, four older sisters were forcibly sold one after another, and his father who had been a farm hand for landlords all his life died of poverty and disease in a landlord's house. . . .

Like Li Ho-kuei, the other members of the brigade's new Party branch committee had suffered deeply in the old society and they have profound proletarian feelings for the Communist Party, Chairman Mao and the socialist system. They quickly aroused the masses to action and a plan to transform Hohengcheng was soon worked out.

But struggle did not stop with the establishment of a new leading group. Since 1960 the struggles between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the socialist road and the capitalist road and between Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and other political swindlers have continued and at times were very sharp. The Party branch was tempered and further strengthened in these struggles.



Brigade youth.

Educated in the course of struggle, the commune members have steadily raised their socialist consciousness, and production in Hohengcheng has also shown continuous development.

Learn From Tachai

There were still bigger changes in Hohengcheng after it started to learn from the Tachai Brigade.

Chairman Mao issued the call "In agriculture, learn from Tachai" in 1964. The cadres and commune members here responded immediately. They sent representatives to visit and learn from the Tachai Brigade in Shansi Province seven times. This became a big inspiration and encouragement.

They could clearly understand from Tachai's experience the importance of putting proletarian politics in command and letting Mao Tsetung Thought lead everything. They realized that only when people's ideological consciousness was raised could Hohengcheng march forward in big strides.

The brigade cadres always take the lead in class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. Carrying out Chairman Mao's teaching "The cadres of our Party and state are ordinary workers and not overlords sitting on the backs of the people," they take part in collective productive labour more than 300 days a year while doing a good job in leading the brigade. From secretary Li Ho-kuei of the Party branch down to the other cadres, they earn work-points equivalent to that of a brigade member with ordinary labour power. (China's rural areas now follow the principle of work-points for work done in accordance with the principle of "to each according to his work.")

The idea of farming for the revolution and not seeking "material incentives" has been steadily fostered among the commune members and they love the state and the collective. An old poor peasant, commune member Li Ching-jung who has won the respect of the whole brigade is one example. His eldest son, the brigade's electrician, was killed accidentally in the fight against a dry spell. Even in his sorrow the old man realized that his son had died in the effort to get more grain and cotton for the revolution — the kind of death which Chairman Mao has pointed to: when we "die for the people it is a worthy death." He turned his sorrow into strength. He not only turned down the compensation the brigade offered to

pay, but he let his second son take over the dead son's job.

The commune members have also learnt Tachai's revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work in transforming nature. Brigade visitors brought back from Tachai a pick and 200 baskets for carrying earth. The peasants were determined to do a good job of building Hohengcheng in the Tachai spirit of transforming barren mountains into tiers of terraced fields.

Hard work for five winters (capital construction on the farmland generally is done in the winter, the slack farming season) since 1965 resulted in removing over 80 earth hills, filling in more than 200 pits or low-lying tracts and turning the brigade's 2,400 *mu* of farmland into well laid-out garden-like plots. They also transformed the sandy and alkaline land into fertile soil. There was only one power-operated well in 1959. Today there are 41, an average of one for every 60 *mu*. The closely linked channels and ditches make both irrigation and drainage very convenient. All this provides a solid material base for rapid farm development and it played a significant role last year in guaranteeing a bumper harvest despite a long drought.

All the work proceeded amid continuous struggle. For instance, in 1965 when the brigade decided to remove a big earth hill near the village and expand the area of farmland, a class enemy spread superstitious ideas in an attempt to shake some old men's determination. He babbled: "There's a dragon lying under Hohengcheng and that earth hill is where the dragon's head is. If it is removed, Hohengcheng will suffer." The commune members held a meeting to criticize him. One of them said: "This nonsense about a dragon is a

trick with which you cheated the people in the old society. When the dragon's head was there before, how come the landlords were so rich and we were so poor? Tell us the reason!" This rebuff silenced that fellow.

Scientific Farming

Scientific experiment centring on inter-cropping is an outstanding feature of Hohengcheng learning from Tachai. It is also an important reason for the brigade's rapid development in production.

A "three-in-one" scientific experimental group, consisting of brigade cadres, old peasants and young peasants who graduated from middle school, was established in 1965. A small experimental farm was set up to experiment in combining crops and cultivation methods in inter-cropping and in breeding and selecting good strains. Its successful results have been popularized on the brigade's farmland.

Over the last few years the brigade has worked out through experiments various inter-cropping methods for more than 20 crops and these have been popularized in the fields. As a result, the local traditional farming method of planting and harvesting three crops in two years (for example, planting cotton in the spring and wheat at the end of autumn the first year and planting maize in the summer of the next year) was changed to planting two (for example, cotton and wheat) or three (for example, cotton, peas and maize) crops a year. In some parts of the brigade's land four crops (for instance, maize, barley, millet and buckwheat) may be reaped in a year by inter-cropping. Thus, the per-mu yield has gone up enormously.

The scientific experimental group has bred and selected a dozen or so good strains which give very good yields. The per-mu yield of one good wheat strain, Hohengcheng No. 1, reached 1,200 jin in one crop last year. The local wheat yield had been just over 100 jin prior to liberation.

With the widespread adoption of inter-cropping, some old types of farm tools became unsuitable and manpower for a time also became tight because the new cultivation method called for more labour power. Apart from gradually adding more farm machinery, they also improved traditional farm tools. A typical case is the "spiral plough" the brigade now makes. On plots where crops are inter-planted, the earth turned up by the plough does not fall on nearby seedlings. It is 11 times as efficient as a man doing the job with a spade.

The struggle between new and old ideas never ceases in the course of scientific experiment. For instance, when the

experimental group proposed in 1965 to plant two crops of maize a year, one technician with some book knowledge but without much practical experience disagreed. "From the data available," he said, "Hopei has a short frost-free period and it is impossible to plant two crops." Some commune members said: "Hopei is a northern province and it can't compare with the warm places south of the Yangtze River. Two crops of maize can be planted only if Hohengcheng is moved 3,000 li to the south." Breaking the bonds of old ideas and after repeated experiments, comrades of the experimental group finally trial-planted two crops of maize successfully. This fact convinced the dissenting commune members. They pooled their efforts to popularize this method in the fields and thereby greatly increased yields.

Tremendous Changes

Profound changes have taken place in the Hohengcheng Brigade. Compared with pre-liberation yields, last year's average per-mu yield rose 11-fold for grain and fivefold for cotton.

The brigade recently added six tractors, three trucks and five trailers. In addition, it also bought more than 100 farm machines and tools, including sowing, threshing and winnowing machines.

The collective economy has continuously expanded. Apart from returning all the loans it had borrowed from the state, the brigade now has a public accumulation of 620,000 yuan and its collective grain reserves amount to 280,000 jin. It has set up about a dozen small workshops to repair farm tools, make chemicals and insecticides, gin cotton, press oil and mill grain.

Commune members' living standards have improved markedly. The average per-capita net income of the



Studying ways of inter-cropping.

1,300 persons for the whole village in 1972 multiplied more than fourfold, compared with that of 1952 when Hohengcheng was still in the mutual-aid team stage. Over 90 per cent of the brigade's 252 households have money in the bank and villagers have built more than 1,100 new brick rooms in recent years. Electric lights are in all households. Running water is near every home so that water need not be fetched from wells dozens of metres deep.

The brigade is making increasingly bigger contributions to the country. As a cotton-growing unit, Hohengcheng used to rely on the state for its food grain. But it has become more than self-sufficient since 1966, and has been delivering and selling the state grain. In the last seven years it delivered and sold the state 1,389,000

jin of grain, 1,168,000 jin of cotton and over 395,000 jin of vegetable oil.

When people congratulate Hohengcheng on its immense changes, secretary Li Ho-kuei of the Party branch always replies: "There's nothing to be proud of! The small achievements we have made so far are only the first step on a 10,000-li long march."

That is right. From the brigade's plan for future development, from the bustling scenes of farming in the fields and from the singing of "learning from and catching up with Tachai . . ." heard over the loud-speakers, it can be seen that Hohengcheng is continuing its march in the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment.

A County Bank

by Our Correspondents

AFTER nationwide liberation, the people's state power confiscated the bureaucrat-capitalists' banks and gradually transformed the small private banks to set up a unified socialist state bank — the People's Bank of China. Its offices are all over the country, with branches in every province, municipality, region and county, and agencies and sub-agencies or saving centres in factories, mines and townships.

The branch bank in Fangshan County, on the southwestern outskirts of Peking, is one of thousands of branches of the People's Bank.

We visited this county bank and from its business activities got a general idea of a socialist state bank and its role in the national economy.

This branch is not a small one, and is located on a rather quiet street in the county town of Fangshan. Neither tall nor imposing, the building does not have barred windows or the other open displays of money and power as was the case with banks in the old society. The main business office is in a large room in a one-storey building; an old-fashioned one-storey house at the back serves as the administration office and staff living quarters.

Li Hsin-lien, chairman of the revolutionary committee of this branch, told us 240 people work in the bank and its 16 agencies and sub-agencies and 7 saving centres, serving the county's 203 government offices, mass organizations, factories, mines and other enterprises and 31 people's communes with a total population of 560,000.

Pawnshops Before Liberation

Extreme poverty reigned in this county before liberation. There were two pawnshops and a few shops

dealing in grain and groceries; they loaned money at usurious interest to the working people who, exploited by landlords and capitalists, found it difficult to make ends meet. With nowhere else to go to get credit they turned to the pawnshops. In time of emergency, they pawned what clothing or other property they had for a loan.

Whatever they got from those dealers in human misery was well under half the real value, and interest rates on a loan were outrageous. If what they pawned was not redeemed in the period of time set, their articles no longer belonged to them.

The family of Hou Chun-po who works in the Fangshan bank was no stranger to exploitation by usury and the pawnshops. When his father was sick in 1943, the family had no money for medical treatment. The mother tried everything possible to get a loan, at exorbitant interest. Unable to raise enough money this way, she pawned the only new garment she owned.

When her husband died she did not have the money to redeem the garment. Even worse, she was unable to pay back the money she had borrowed at high interest. The result was that Hou Chun-po's elder brother had to pay off the debt by going to work for the usurer. Because of the excessive interest, the amount of money that had been borrowed doubled in a year and so the family was still in debt right up to the time of liberation.

Fangshan was liberated in November 1948 and a people's bank set up the following year. Usury and pawnshops were done away with and the heavy burden on the Hou family was finally lifted. Hou Chun-po himself joined the bank later and is now vice-chairman

of the revolutionary committee of its Choukoutien agency. Quite a number of people now working in the Fangshan branch had experiences similar to Hou's.

The working people of Fangshan County went in and out of the pawnshops in the old days to get a loan on their meagre possessions, today they walk heads high to the bank where they keep their savings. Although their lives have improved tremendously they still live frugally and put money they have saved in the bank to help accumulate funds for state socialist construction. About six kilometres from Fangshan township, Choukou village before liberation had 70 of its 300 households trying to find a living elsewhere. Today 70 per cent of the peasant households there have money in the bank. At the end of 1972 money deposits for the whole county were 26 times the amount in 1952. (See chart.) This averages 18 yuan per person. Though small, the figure shows a world of difference from the working people's old days of starvation and want.

What the County Bank Does

The socialist state bank has many important functions. Li Hsin-lien showed us the office where more than 20 people were busy behind a long counter doing business with people from factories, villages and offices. Wooden signs on the counter read: "Industrial Credits," "Agricultural Credits," "Clearance," "Remittances," and so on.

Li said: "All our activities are centred on developing the national economy and getting greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism."

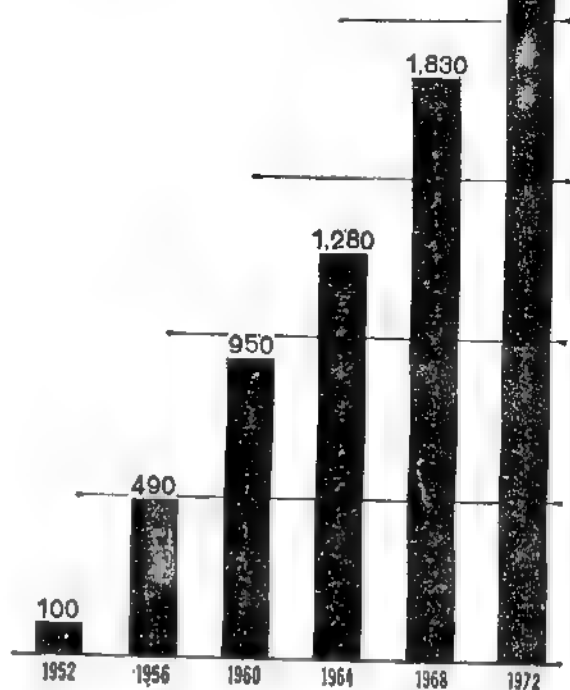
The bank's activities are wide-ranging and can be divided roughly into three main categories: credits, clearance and cash.

"Briefly," Li said, "by using capital and cash currency, the state bank stimulates industrial and agricultural production and the flow of commodities to make them better suited to the development of the national economy in a planned and proportionate way."

He continued: "The great revolutionary teachers Marx and Engels pointed out in the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* that after the proletariat has seized power 'centralization of credit in the hands of the state' must be carried out through a state bank. China's socialist bank is the national credit centre, which means all loans must be made through this bank. No other departments are allowed to make loans or borrow among themselves.

"In old China all activities by the banks were done for profit, with the banks competing among themselves. Several self-styled 'national banks' were actually large banks manipulated by the reactionary Kuomintang chieftains, the four big families of Chiang, Soong, Kung and Chen. They used the banks to fleece the people on a huge scale. In those years of wild inflation and soaring prices, the commercial capitalists and bureau-

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crat-compradors hoarded and speculated with the banks serving as centres for these nefarious practices.

"The banks were nationalized after the victory of the Chinese people's revolution and things are very different today. Closely co-ordinated with industrial and agricultural production and commercial activities, the bank determines who get loans and how much, according to the requirements of the national economic development plan. For example, funds are allocated each year to the bank at Fangshan by the people's bank of Peking municipality. All industrial, commercial, agricultural and other units (these units are state or collectively owned) within the county must apply to the bank or its agencies and sub-agencies if they need loans. The bank will, according to their state-set production plan, work out and decide the amount each applicant needs for production. All loans must be repaid within a set time, plus a small amount of interest."

Comrade Chang who is in charge of industrial credits explained how a loan is made. He talked about credit for a certain oil refinery. According to the production task set for the refinery by the state, the bank worked out the quantity of fuel, raw materials, machinery and spare parts required, and together with the refinery fixed the amount of money required. The work of the man issuing the loan was to go to the plant, get information about its production and sales of products and help it do its economic accounting well and raise managerial standards so that fulfilment of

state production plans is guaranteed and the plant is also aided to produce more goods with the minimum amount of money.

Chang gave us another example. A plant in Fangshan making and repairing electric generators was given the job in 1972 of making two large steam turbines. The man from the bank's credit department went to the plant and found there was not enough production equipment and funds. He saw to it that urgently needed funds were sent to the plant; on the other hand, he suggested and worked with the plant in clearing out its warehouse of idle machinery and materials which were sent to factories needing them more urgently. This solved the requirements of other factories and also helped the plant solve part of the question of funds needed for production, thereby reducing the amount it had to ask from the state. Last year this plant finished the two turbines ahead of time and met the state loan.

Speaking of the bank's second task, Li went on to explain the bank's function as a clearance centre, that is, all transactions of commodities and transfer of non-commodity funds by industrial and commercial enterprises, offices and mass organizations in China must be cleared through the People's Bank of China. The state bank through its several thousand branches all over the country has set up a clearance web. All factories, mines and other enterprises, offices and so on have an account in their nearest bank. Transfer of all materials and buying and selling of commodities are cleared through the bank. Even the tiniest sub-agencies in remote parts of the country can carry out transactions with other branches anywhere in the country.

For example, the Liuliho Cement Factory 15 kilometres outside Fangshan township sells its products to 14 provinces and cities. The bank's Liuliho agency sends bills for goods to the buyers' banks which, after checking with their clients, remit in good time payment to the Liuliho agency.

This way of doing things cuts down the volume of cash in circulation (otherwise each county would be called on to handle hundreds of millions of yuan a day) and speeds up turnover of funds. For example, the agency in Liuliho receives several hundred thousand yuan each day for the cement plant, thus guaranteeing the normal circulation of the plant's funds.

Because the state has clearly set down the production quota and output value for each factory and because the bank is fully cognizant of the state plan and income and expenditure of any particular factory within the area, the bank can make suggestions or criticisms about usage of funds and see to it that the factory fulfils the state plan. This is one of the tasks given the bank by the state.

"Another very important function of the bank is that it is the national centre of cash activities," Li continued with his explanation of the bank's third task. Those who lived in the old society remember the Kuomintang government's wanton issuance of paper money which caused inflation and big currency

devaluations and skyrocketing prices. On top of this, the capitalists speculated, hoarded and wreaked havoc on the market. After liberation, the People's Government energetically developed production and simultaneously adopted a series of important economic measures, one of which was controlling cash. The state prescribed that cash in hand of all offices, mass organizations, army units and commercial and industrial enterprises must not exceed a fixed amount and that all temporarily idle cash must be banked. Apart from those made on a small scale, no transactions between them can be made with cash. These and other economic activities between them must be done through the bank. In this way, the state can adjust the circulation of cash in a planned way, economize on cash outlay, prevent commercial activities outside the plan and guarantee market supply and financial stability.

It was almost closing time and the bank was busier than ever as people from many nearby shops came to do business. A clerk from the foodstuffs shop, a cashier from the daily necessities shop and a worker from the grain store with work-clothes covered with flour, were there to deposit the cash for the sales that day. Li said that under socialism the aim of the bank and the enterprises was identical. The former keeps a watchful eye on production and makes things convenient for the masses while the enterprises and the masses look upon the bank as their own. People who have dealings with the bank every day consider it their "general accountant" or "general bookkeeper."

Rural Agency

As agriculture is the foundation of the national economy, the county banks all stress helping farm production. They play an active role in consolidating and developing the socialist collective economy of the rural people's communes.

To suppress usury and promote agricultural co-operation, the banks set up many credit co-operatives in the countryside in the early period after liberation. This is a form of collectively-owned mutual-aid organization among the masses as the funds come from the savings of the collective and the individual peasants. When the collective or individuals have any difficulty in production or in livelihood, they can borrow from these credit co-ops which are under the leadership of the state bank and supported by it. The credit co-ops are still an important force in developing rural financial work by the bank and in consolidating and developing the socialist collective economy. When the credit co-ops do not have enough funds, the bank lends them money at a very low interest rate. Surplus fund is transferred to the state bank which gives the credit co-ops a higher rate of interest than the credit co-ops demand for their loans. Of the 404 production brigades in Fangshan County, 401 have credit co-ops of which 70 per cent are self-sustaining in funds and have banked a sizable sum.

When we called at the Choukoutien agency we saw Hou Chun-po. He told us that in addition to banking

(Continued on p. 23.)

SAMDECH SIHANOUK IN AFRICA

Brazzaville — Lusaka

Following his Senegal, Guinea and Mali visits, Cambodian Head of State Samdech Sihanouk visited the People's Republic of the Congo (May 19-23) and the Republic of Zambia (May 23-26).

The Congo has been giving all-out support to the Cambodian people's struggle from the very outset. Fresh testimony to this was the grand welcome it gave Samdech Sihanouk. In Brazzaville, he was invited to report on the current situation in Cambodia before a plenum of the Central Committee of the Congolese Party of Labour. While in Pointe-Noire, the Congo's second largest city and an important port, he had another opportunity to acquaint the Congolese people with the excellent situation of the Cambodian people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. Samdech Sihanouk said: We have liberated more than 90 per cent of the territory of Cambodia, where it is the people who are the masters. There are people's administrative committees at village, district, provincial, municipal and national levels. All foreign enterprises and plantations have been taken over by the Cambodian state. "After liberation," he went on, "there will emerge a completely independent Cambodia—independent politically and economically, 100 per cent independent." "People's war will win, we will certainly win. This is what I was asked to tell you by the fighters and the entire resistance movement in the interior of Cambodia," he said.

During his stay in the Congo, Samdech Sihanouk and President Ngouabi held talks on questions concerning relations between the two countries and on international problems. In the joint communique signed by them, "the Congolese side reaffirms that the Cambodian problem must be solved by the Cambodian

people themselves represented by the National United Front of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia." "The Congolese side unreservedly supports the Cambodian stand to struggle without retreat and compromise against the traitorous clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, In Tam, Cheng Heng and Son Ngoc Thanh."

In a public speech, President Ngouabi also pointed out: Today, after all, nobody can ignore the immense prestige enjoyed in the international arena by Your Royal Highness and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. "We consider as incomprehensible and inadmissible an attitude of neutrality before the heroic struggle of your [Cambodian] people against Yankee barbarity," he said.

Unreserved support for Cambodia was also voiced by Zambia which rolled out the red carpet for Samdech Sihanouk when he arrived in Lusaka. President Kaunda held important talks with the Samdech and personally accompanied him on a visit to the famous Copperbelt Province and a copper mine.

Expressing the Zambian people's feelings for their Cambodian brothers, President Kaunda said at the state banquet: "We in Zambia understand the meaning of struggling for freedom. We fought for our freedom and independence." "We in Zambia believe that your struggle is just and we hope that the people of Cambodia will one day once again enjoy peace, freedom and liberty without interference."

Samdech Sihanouk again stressed that the Lon Nol regime did not in the least represent the Khmer nation and that it was a one hundred per cent creation of U.S. imperialism, a puppet and mercenary of U.S. neo-colonialism. He reaffirmed: "My government will never agree, neither yesterday nor tomorrow, next year or any other year, to negotiate or be

reconciled with the Phnom Penh traitors."

As he had done in the Congo, Samdech Sihanouk time and again pledged in Zambia that the Cambodian people supported the African people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism.

ARGENTINA

President Campora Sworn In

The new Argentine President Hector Jose Campora was sworn in on May 25 at the National Congress Building in Buenos Aires.

Delegations or special envoys from over 60 countries attended the inaugural ceremony, including Chilean President Salvador Allende, Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos, Uruguayan President Juan Maria Bordaberry, Vice-President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kang Ryang Uk, Peruvian Prime Minister Mercado Jarrin, and Special Envoy of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Vu Hae Bong.

Special Envoy and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Argentina Cheng Wei-chih was also present.

President Campora made a speech after the inauguration. Referring to his government's foreign policy, he stressed the principle of "maintaining ever closer relations with all countries of the world, without exception in the spirit of non-intervention" and the principle of "respect for the free determination of the peoples and non-interference in their internal and external affairs." He said that the new government "will give unswerving support to the peoples in their anti-imperialist struggle for abolishing colonialism, old and new, and will never support those governments or countries which engage in exploitation."

He said: "Argentina stands for close partnership of the third world countries, especially the Latin American countries."

Referring to Latin American integration, President Campora stressed

that this should be "an autonomous integration." "We will never support an integration of dependencies which is fundamentally an integration of trade, because its sole purpose is to create an amplified market so as to increase the power of decision of the oligopolies and thus increase dependency [of Latin America] and facilitate imperialist penetration," he declared. His government, he said, will support the Andean Pact and wants to have close ties with the Andean Pact Organization.

He said that the Organization of American States is facing a profound crisis. "The problems of Latin America should be solved in our own headquarters, and only in this way can it serve much better the aims of a real pan-Americanism founded on the real bases of mutual understanding and mutual respect."

President Campora reaffirmed the determination to defend sovereignty over the 200-mile limit in territorial waters.

He particularly paid tribute to the heroic Vietnamese people and voiced his government's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Dwelling on problems at home, he stressed that "the question of national peace is a question of top priority which should be solved without delay."

Touching on one of the essential objectives of the new government's economic policy, he said: "The aim of economic independence is to assure the Argentinians of the power of economic and financial decision, an indispensable indication of political sovereignty, to frustrate the activities of the international monopolies and agents of economic and financial imperialism, and to promote national participation in such strategic areas of development as energy, industry, mining, agriculture and finance."

Campora won the presidential election on March 11 this year. He is the Second Vice-President of the Justicialist Party and personal representative of Argentina's former President Juan Domingo Peron during the latter's residence abroad.

The Justicialist Party, founded by Peron in 1945, was in power between 1946 and 1955.

ICELAND

Protest Against British Frigates in Fishing Zone

The Icelandic Government lodged the strongest protest against the British Government's May 19 decision to send naval frigates to enter the waters within 50 miles of the Icelandic coast under the pretext of "protecting" British trawlers. When he summoned the British Ambassador, Premier Johannesson stated that "Iceland will negotiate nothing while the [foreign] navy is inside the Icelandic fisheries zone." The Premier later declared that British military planes were banned from landing at the NATO base in Keflavik.

Iceland is a fishing country where fish products account for about one-fourth of the gross national products and more than four-fifths of its exports. To defend its economic interests, the Icelandic Government decided to extend its fisheries limit from 12 to 50 miles beginning from September 1, 1972.

The British Government has refused to accept this decision. It supports its trawlers in continuing to fish inside the 50-mile limit while asking for negotiations with the Icelandic Government on the matter. Determined to defend the nation's rights and interests, the Icelandic Government sends gunboats to bar foreign fishing vessels from entering the fishing zone.

U.S.S.R.-F.R.G.

Brezhnev in Bonn

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev visited Bonn from May 18 to 22.

While there Brezhnev called on President Gustav Heinemann of the Federal Republic of Germany, and had talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt and Foreign Minister Walter Scheel. During the talks, the two sides signed "the agreement on developing economic, industrial and technical co-operation," "the agreement on cultural co-operation" and the "additional protocol to the agree-

ment on air travel of November 11, 1971."

This was the first visit to the F.R.G. by a top Soviet leader. Prior to this, the Soviet-F.R.G. treaty was signed in August 1970 and a treaty on the West Berlin question was signed in September 1971 by the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France, recognizing the "ties" between the F.R.G. and West Berlin for the first time. In an interview with a correspondent of *Star*, a F.R.G. magazine, on May 13, Brezhnev said that his Bonn visit was to "continue the cause started in August 1970."

Brezhnev repeatedly stressed his desire to further develop relations with the F.R.G. and to have extensive economic co-operation with it.

Brezhnev took time specially to meet with well-known F.R.G. businessmen and bankers on May 19 and appealed to them to sign contracts with the Soviet Union for tapping its natural resources over a period of 30, 40 and even 50 years.

A joint statement issued at the conclusion of the Brezhnev-Brandt talks revealed that the two sides had discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and questions connected with the European security and co-operation conference and mutual reductions of armed forces in central Europe, the Middle East situation and the Viet Nam question.

The joint statement said that "a detailed exchange of views was held" between both sides on questions pertaining to the 1971 four-power agreement on West Berlin and that they were unanimous that "strict observance and full implementation of this agreement are essential prerequisites" for improving relations between the two countries.

In a May 23 speech in the F.R.G. Bundestag on Brezhnev's visit, Brandt stressed the consensus of views between the F.R.G. and its European allies and the United States. He said that the F.R.G. is a member of the European Economic Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "Nobody should speculate that we would let ourselves be thrown into unrealistic thinking," he added.

NOTEBOOK

Korean Revolutionary Opera "The Flower Girl." The Pyongyang Mansudae Art Troupe from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received an enthusiastic welcome from the audience on May 19 at its Peking premiere of *The Flower Girl*, a revolutionary opera adapted from the drama of the same title.

Chu Teh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Liu Hsien-chuan, Deputy Head of the Cultural Group Under the State Council, were present on the occasion. Liu Hsien-chuan and Chong Gwang Sun, Vice-Chairman of the Korean Committee for Foreign Cultural Relations and leader of the Mansudae Art Troupe, spoke before the performance.

The curtain went up on a scene of azaleas blooming over the hillside and a poor farm hand's daughter Ggot Bun walking slowly down the hill with a bunch of fresh flowers in her arms.

*On the hills and in the fields,
beautiful flowers blossom
every spring.*

*But when will flowers bloom in
our hearts, deprived as we are
of our land and of spring?*

As soon as performance began, the opera briefly and vividly gave the historical background: Korea in the late 20s and early 30s under the rule of imperialism and feudalism. Ggot Bun, the heroine, is the artistic prototype of the exploited and oppressed labouring people of Korea in that period. The plight of her whole family is profoundly typical—her father was worked to death as the landlord's hired labourer; her little sister becomes totally blind through the maltreatment of the landlord's wife; her elder brother is thrown into prison; her

mother is forced to continue slaving for the landlord until she dies of exhaustion and illness; Ggot Bun herself is forced to work for the landlord in the day and sell flowers on the streets at night.

Where there is oppression there is resistance. Under the leadership of their great leader Kim Il Sung, the heroic Korean people struggled valiantly for liberation.

*How many tears of blood we
shed!*

The downtrodden, rise up!

*It's only we who can save
ourselves.*

*Everyone, rise up and follow the
Revolutionary Army!*

The finale shows the overthrow of the landlord class, the liberation of the heroine's home village, azaleas blossoming everywhere and the emancipated labouring people singing and dancing as they celebrate their victory.

The revolutionary content of the opera is heart-stirring and the national art form of *The Flower Girl* too is most delightful. The opera is closely knit and Ggot Bun's artistic image

has been successfully projected. The songs, music, dances and scenery have inherited the fine traditions of Korean folk art while at the same time introducing new creative developments. The fresh and flowing melodies have a strong national flavour. The timbre of the chorus is harmonious and the feelings of the characters are very well brought out. The rhythm of the orchestra is lively, with many variations, and most captivating. The dances full of national characteristics are precisely executed. The carefully designed scenery gives a three-dimensional effect which adds to the beauty of the opera.

The vocal art of the Korean artistes is of a very high level. The artiste portraying Ggot Bun has a clear and rich voice. The voice of the singer in the role of the elder brother Chol Yong is powerful and resonant. And the singer acting the little sister Sun Hui has a very sweet voice. All of them competently depicted their parts.

The Korean literary and art workers, guided by the revolutionary aesthetic idea of their great leader President Kim Il Sung, have inherited and developed the fine traditions of their folk art. They have gone deep into life and the masses and have created many outstanding works which educate the people in glorious revolutionary traditions and communist spirit. *The Flower Girl* is one outstanding example. After the Peking performance, the capital's press all had warm praise and reviews. Literary and art workers in Peking were extremely pleased to be able to learn from their Korean colleagues.

After concluding the first part of its performances in Peking the Mansudae Art Troupe on May 24 went to Nanking.



The heroine Ggot Bun.

Revolution in Education Supported

REVOLUTION in education is being promoted as Peking factories, mines and enterprises make it their regular job to provide facilities for educational institutions to study industry or to integrate their teaching-learning process and scientific research with productive labour. Nearly 300 such production units are involved in helping 11 universities and colleges as well as 280 middle schools.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has brought home to workers and leading cadres in many factories and mines that revolution in education is crucial to the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The working class should make its contribution in this field. Groups consisting of workers, technicians and cadres have been organized to help the schools revolutionize education.

Workers in factories and mines enthusiastically pass on technical know-how to students coming to take part in productive labour. In addition, veteran workers help the students understand the miserable life of oppression the working class suffered before liberation and join with them in criticizing revisionism. All this helps promote the revolutionization of the students' thinking.

In some factories workers are organized to give lectures to the students who have come while other factories send veteran workers and technicians to universities or middle schools to be part-time teachers. Lectures are now being delivered at Tsinghua University by more than 20 workers and technicians from the Peking "February 7" Locomotive and Rolling Stock Plant and other places.

The Peking Optical Instruments Plant supplied nearly 20 research items to the Department of Precision Instruments in Tsinghua University to give the professors and students more chance to link their teaching and studying with practice. These

problems under study are closely related to current production and technical innovations in the field. A three-in-one group, composed of teachers of the Peking Institute of Iron and Steel and workers and technicians of certain factories, has compiled more than 70 kinds of teaching material including *Steel Making* and *Mechanical Drawing*.

Sanatorium for Seamen

IN 1958 the Yangtze River Navigation Company built a 200-bed sanatorium for seamen. It occupies a scenic spot by the Tunghu Lake in central China's Wuhan city. There are 40 medical personnel and 60 staff members.

Since its opening, 3,300 seamen have gone there for periods of treatment and convalescence ranging from three to six months. During this time they continued to receive their full wages.

All expenses are covered by the navigation company. Since the beginning of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the sanatorium has acquired many kinds of new medical equipment, adopted new methods of treatment and provided richer and more varied diets. On the basis of research, medical workers have combined Western and traditional Chinese medicine in the treatment of certain chronic diseases with good results.

Hsiao Yung-chin, a sailor who was suffering from tuberculosis, recovered after six months of treatment and convalescence. Now he has gone back to work.

He said: "Before liberation I was a deck-hand and fell ill as a result of overwork. Instead of providing treatment, the shipowner sacked me without giving me my pay. Today I receive free medical service plus an extra food allowance. What a difference between the new society and the old!"

The sanatorium has spacious recreation rooms where patients can read newspapers and magazines, play

chess and enjoy other recreational activities. There are films every week, as well as performances presented by the company's amateur cultural troupe. Members of the Party committee of the navigation company and cadres from various departments to which the seamen belong often go to the sanatorium to visit their comrades.

A Szechuan Opera Actress

LEADING Szechuan opera actress Chen Shu-fang at the age of 50 has a wider appreciative audience than ever among workers, peasants and soldiers because of her portrayal of a heroic Chinese working-class mother.

She is now appearing in the new Szechuan opera version of *The Red Lantern*, adapted from the modern revolutionary Peking opera of the same title. The story is about a railwayman, his mother and daughter, who are all engaged in underground work during the struggle against Japanese aggression. More than 90 performances have been given in city theatres, factories and rural people's communes. Critics have commended her presentation of the mother as "filled with revolutionary feeling and showing the high artistic level of an experienced actress."

Chen Shu-fang is vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee of the Szechuan Opera Company of Chengtu, capital of Szechuan Province.

In portraying this part in *The Red Lantern*, Chen Shu-fang said that it had involved a revolution in her thinking.

Chen Shu-fang began her training at the age of seven in an old-style opera troupe. Like others of her profession, she could not escape exploitation and maltreatment at the hands of the reactionaries and gang-bosses of the theatrical world. Her mother had been a Peking opera actress who had died at 30 from a beating by Kuomintang officers. The boss forced Chen Shu-fang to appear in at least two shows a day. She was carried on to the wings even when she was ill and made to perform. She sometimes fainted while singing.

China's liberation in 1949 brought artists respect and a secure life. Chen Shu-fang became a member of the Communist Party of China, was three times elected a Deputy to the National People's Congress and has been received by Chairman Mao on several occasions.

Chen Shu-fang wanted to serve the new society with her art, but she was not clear as to how and for whom she should act. The old Szechuan opera was one of the country's oldest traditional opera forms and had an extensive repertoire of feudal operas glorifying kings and emperors, ministers and generals, scholars and beauties. For some years after liberation it continued to present such plays because of interference by Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line in literature and art.

Chen Shu-fang was frequently called to play the role of a feudal lady, although this part was alien to the feelings of the workers, peasants and soldiers and quite incongruous with the times. "We sang the praises of the landlords on stage and spread their thoughts and feelings while the worker-peasant audiences offstage seethed with anger and indignation," she said.

In the early 1960s some efforts were made by her and others to put on Szechuan operas based on con-

temporary themes. Performing before a village audience one time, Chen Shu-fang tried to portray someone planting rice seedlings, moving forward as she planted. Gales of laughter swept the audience. "That's no way to plant rice seedlings! You'd only trample what you've planted into the mud. You have to move backwards!" the peasants roared. She realized she had to learn from the peasants before she could act as one on stage. But in her mind "learning" meant superficially imitating peasant language and actions.

Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line on literature and art came under fierce criticism in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The company Chen Shu-fang belongs to and countless others throughout the country made serious efforts to understand and apply Chairman Mao's teachings in his *Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art*. They went to factories, rural areas and army reclamation farms to take part in physical labour, integrate with the workers, peasants and soldiers and learn from them, and transform their world outlook in the heat of the struggle. They realized that they had to learn to think and feel as workers, peasants and soldiers, and that was the most important thing.

Chen Shu-fang once stayed in the home of a peasant woman about her own age. They did farm work together. The woman tended a cow for the production team in her spare time, taking much pride in this because it was useful to the collective. Another time Chen Shu-fang went to work in a brick-kiln. A woman worker noticed that she had no gloves and immediately gave her her own, saying with a smile: "We're glad you're here. Labour changes people." Daily contacts with labour and the labouring people gradually made it possible for Chen Shu-fang to portray worker-peasant-soldier heroines on the stage. A new identification of the artist with audiences was built up.

In acting the role of the mother of the hero in *The Red Lantern*, Chen Shu-fang drew inspiration from the working women she had come to know. She neglected meals and sleep in striving to find the best ways to project the communist spirit of the mother who has laid down her life in defending the interests of the revolution. After every rehearsal, she would listen attentively to opinions from the audience.

Chen Shu-fang said: "In our socialist society literature and art must be used as a weapon of the revolution."

(Continued from p. 18.)

activities its attention is centred on aiding agriculture. Following Chairman Mao's instruction that "in the financial and economic field, the Party and government personnel at the county and district levels should devote nine-tenths of their energy to helping the peasants increase production," the agency issues loans to help peasants increase agricultural production and sends people to the villages to give specific help to production brigades and teams to implement the policy of "taking grain as the key link and ensuring an all-round development," improve production management, develop a many-sided economy, do a good job of economic accounting, cut down production costs and make the maximum use of limited funds.

The agency found that the Waching Brigade, one of 24 in the two communes within the area of the agency's activities, had relatively low grain yields and was not doing very well by way of side-lines and that it had had to borrow from the bank yearly. It had run up a debt of 110,000 yuan. Hou Chun-po and another comrade in charge of agricultural credits felt that

giving it priority in loans every year was not the best method to help it. Rather, they should help this brigade learn from the Tachai Brigade, the national pacesetter in agriculture, emulate Tachai's spirit of self-reliance and hard work. They went to the Waching Brigade and together with the cadres and masses discussed ways of setting the brigade on its own feet. They helped to finance the brigade and its members in raising pigs, which greatly increased the sources of manure and the income of the collective and the individual members. As there was plenty of quartz rock in a hill near the village which had never been fully made use of before, the agency helped the brigade financially and in other ways to set up a workshop to process the quartz into sand which each year gave the brigade a return of more than 300,000 yuan.

With the money earned from side-lines over the past three years, this brigade gradually repaid its debt and bought a tractor, thresher, winnower and other machines. The increase in machinery and manure brought a sharp rise in grain production.

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